



US Forest Service

Rim Fire Recovery

Weekly Update

General Background:

Date: Aug. 5, 2014

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.
2. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. The proposed DEIS includes work on 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. A decision is scheduled for August 2014.

Update for the week of August 5, 2014:

Director:

- Barbara Drake, the new Rim Fire Recovery Director, takes command on Sept. 7. She will attend the Rim Fire Reforestation Workshop to be held on Aug. 18-19.
- Met with the Forest Supervisor and Regional Forester regarding the implementation of the upcoming ROD.

NEPA Coordinator:

- Supporting the Forest Supervisor with background data for the ROD.

ID Team Lead:

- Team has been working on finalizing the EIS.
- EIS response-to-comments project is 90% done.
- Administrative record is in order.

Engineering:

- Two BLM survey crews are resetting missing boundary markers while a regional surveyor is marking existing corners.

Forestry:

- Conducting tours of the burned area with the Associated Press, the Ecological Society of America and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Archaeology:

- Writing the cultural report for the EIS.
- Crew of 20 people has been doing archaeological surveys. Awaiting final documentation for product completion.
- The Me-Wuk tribe created a video regarding their Rim Fire field trips.

Timber:

- Recently visited the Ultra Power Company for biomass co-generation information.
- Marking crew has been hired and we are on track with our first few sales.

Communications:

- Press requests have increased and are likely to continue as we approach the fire's anniversary.

- Lead PAO will be leaving the area at the end of this week but will continue to work remotely.

Issues:

- A new Issues Manager joined the team and will remain on staff through Aug. 22.



Biomass material gathered after the Rim Fire may be used for the generation of electric power.

Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:
Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.